

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-18 remain pending in the application, with claims 1 and 10 being the independent claims. The specification is sought to be amended to update the priority information as well as to correct minor typographical errors. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Donald J. Featherstone
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,876

Date: 9/20/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

438933_1.DOC